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in here and we shouldn't be shifting General Funds to this It is interesting to note that in a Legislature and from legislators who have been talking, year in and year out, about lowering property taxes, that all of a sudden in this area it's okay to increase property taxes, even in face of the fact that we all know the heavy resistance to property taxes at every level for everything. And we all know that the NRDs are not one person, one vote, that by and large they are dominated by the And being dominated by the farms and farms and ranches. ranches, those are the people who, for very understandable reasons, have the greatest reluctance about increasing property taxes. The history of the NRDs, the true history of the NRDs is that they were not reacting well to water quality programs when they had to rely on property taxes. If you look at the instigation of those programs and when they began and what's been happening, the real activity and the real advance in getting a handle on this has come from the fertilizer tax, not from property taxes. When the reliance was on property taxes, I think it's fair to say, not much was getting done. Every ag organization is against it, Senator Schrock, that may be. need I remind you that there was a time, just a couple of short years ago, when every ag organization, with the exception of maybe one, was against something called the ethanol bill. Times things change, people have to take a realistic perspective, I think, towards what is happening in our society. Let me say one more thing in defense of what's been said on the floor before I move to the NRDs and exactly what's going on in the NRDs. There is discussion of the bargain and what was said and what the agreement was and why there is a sunset. talk about that in two different ways. First of all, there were actually two bargains. One of those bargains took place in the early 1990's when the personal property tax was taken off farm That was a huge thing for the rural community. And in return and as part of that compromise there was to be a \$4 a ton fertilizer tax, and there was no sunset on it.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...was the bargain. That was the bargain that allowed me and others to go to our constituents and say, we're